

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 20 2007**Docket No. 740756-2702
Application No. 10/757,459
Page 11**REMARKS**

The Office Action of May 18, 2007 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1-32 and 35-68 were pending prior to the instant amendment with claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35 and 41 withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, claims 1-2 and 49-50 have been amended and claims 36-38, 42, 47-48, 53-54 and 65-66 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 69-74 have been added to recite features to which Applicants are entitled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 39-40, and 43-46, 49-52, 55-64 and 67-74 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1-2, 49-50 and 69 are independent.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 10-11, 21-22, 24-27, 39-40, 49-50, 53-54, 57-62 and 65-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. Pub. 2001/0004281 to Sasaki (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,035 to von Gutfeld et al. (von Gutfeld) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,476,899 to Ishida et al. (Ishida). Claims 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,831,725 to Niiya (Niiya). Claims 7, 8 and 51-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki, von Gutfeld and Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,067 to Nishiguchi et al. (Nishiguchi). Claims 13-14 and 55-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki, von Gutfeld and Ishida and in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. 2003/0090609 to Inoue et al. (Inoue). Claims 15-16 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki, von Gutfeld, Ishida in view of Inoue and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,647 to Inou. (Inou). Claims 30-31 and 63-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki, von Gutfeld and Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,773,737 to Yokono et al. (Yokono). Claims 43, 45 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki, von Gutfeld and Ishida in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0027636 to Yamada (Yamada). Finally, claims 44, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki and von Gutfeld in view of Ishida and further in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. 2001/0052959 to Tamatani et al. (Tamatani). These rejections are respectfully traversed at least for the reasons provided below.

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With respect to independent claims 1-2, the Examiner asserts that Sasaki substantially discloses the claimed invention except for the claimed features of discharging a plurality of droplets by ink-jet under reduced pressure and discharging the seal material by ink-jet (see Office Action, pages 2-3). The Examiner relies upon von Gutfeld for curing the deficiencies of Sasaki, since von Gutfeld discloses dropping in a vacuum. Also, the Examiner relies upon Ishida for curing the deficiencies of Sasaki, since Ishida discloses discharging the sealing member by ink-jet.

With respect to independent claims 49-50, the Examiner asserts that Sasaki discloses the claimed invention except for the claimed features of discharging a plurality of droplets by ink-jet from a plurality of moving nozzles and discharging the seal material by ink-jet (see Office Action, pages 2-3). The Examiner relies upon von Gutfeld for curing the deficiencies of Sasaki, since von Gutfeld discloses dropping from a plurality of nozzles that can scan. Also, the Examiner relies upon Ishida for curing the deficiencies of Sasaki, since Ishida discloses discharging the sealing member by inkjet.

However, claims 1-2 recite, *inter alia*, the features of "discharging a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal by ink-jet only ... wherein the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet on the region under reduced pressure." Further, claims 49-50 recite, *inter alia*, the features of "forming a seal material layer that surrounds a pixel area provided on a first substrate by ink-jet ... discharging a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal by ink-jet only ... pasting the first substrate and a second substrate under reduced pressure ... the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet from a plurality of nozzles which move." Although von Gutfeld discloses depositing a liquid crystal material from a nozzle, it appears that von Gutfeld, taken alone or in combination with Sasaki, fails to teach or suggest the features of discharging a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal by ink-jet only, wherein the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet on the region under reduced pressure or the features of plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet from a plurality of nozzles which move, as presently claimed.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. *MPEP §2142*. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art must teach all the claim limitations. *MPEP §2142*. The

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combined references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the present application.

Applicants respectfully point to the final prong of the test, which states the prior art must teach all the claim limitations. At the very least, the combined references do not teach all of the limitations of independent claims 1-2 and 49-50.

Thus, it appears that even when Sasaki, von Gutfeld, Ishida, Niiya, Nishiguchi, Inoue, Inou, Yokono, Yamada and/or Tamatani are combined, the present features of discharging a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal by ink-jet only, wherein the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet on the region under reduced pressure or the combination of features of forming a seal material layer that surrounds a pixel area provided on a first substrate by ink-jet, discharging a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal by ink-jet only, pasting the first substrate and a second substrate under reduced pressure and the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged by ink-jet from a plurality of nozzles which move cannot be obtained. Therefore, Applicants contend that it cannot be said that Sasaki, taken alone or in any combination with von Gutfeld, Ishida, Niiya, Nishiguchi, Inoue, Inou, Yokono, Yamada and/or Tamatani makes obvious the present invention as claimed.

Applicants have added new claims 69-74. The feature of the alignment layer as recited in independent claim 69 is supported at least in page 5, line 27 of the present specification.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution and so as to expedite the prosecution of the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



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